

City of Concord Recreation and Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2005

Attendance

Committee Members: Candace White-Bouchard, Chiara Dolcino , Janet Schofield, Andrea Goldberg. John Mercier and Liz Odell.

Staff Members: David Gill, Doug Woodward and Chris Jacques

Meeting was called to order by Candace at 5:05 pm

Candace reviewed the agenda.

David highlighted the CIP information RPAC members received with the agenda. David thanked Carolyn Tracy and Doug Woodward for helping create the packets.

2006 CIP review

David highlighted pages 11, 12 and 13 of the *CIP – Detailed Project Listing By Number*. Projects in current budget (FY 06) have already been approved. David pointed out if you take out the dollars in #352 Open Space Protection, the city is spending slightly less than \$200,000 on parks in FY 2006.

Chris highlighted the projects he is responsible for in this year CIP. He highlighted projects: #58, 61, and 322. All items will be started in this fiscal year. Chiara asked how the football practice field renovation at Memorial Field will affect school teams and the youth teams that use the field and at Rundlett Middle School. Chris explained that Recreation, Grounds and the Concord School District have already met once and will be meeting again in January to review any possible conflicts that will arise from completing this project (project #58). If this project goes forward it would mean the practice football field (dog pound) would be closed for the entire year and will become a game field for football and lacrosse for 2007. All teams that currently practice on this field would need to be relocated to other fields.

Jan asked the status of the other projects not under grounds responsibility. Chris explained that some CIP projects are under his control while others could either be Community Planning or Engineering, no CIP projects are coordinate by the Recreation Department. Doug explained he was not aware of the following project being approved in FY 06 and will need to find out the status. The following projects are under CD – Community Planning and no updates were given:

- ◆ Number 60: Waterfront Park Expansion: \$15,000
- ◆ Number 359: Merrill Park: \$24,000
- ◆ Number 360: Kimball Park: \$50,000

The group was very concerned how project number 359 was in this year's budget when the mini master plan for Merrill Park has not even been approved. Project 359 is for a foot bridge at Merrill Park. Candace asked how much money is left in the Keach Park account. Jan also asked if there was any money left in the Kimball Park account. Chris and Doug will find out.

Mini Master Plan review

Discussion took place on the best way for this committee to prioritize the parks in the master plan and then add these into the CIP out years FY 07 – 11. Which parks will be 1st and what projects in each park will be funded. The mini master plans are only for White, Rollins, Garrison and Merrill Park and Kimball Park, all other parks are not included. The group brainstormed the other parks that should be included as part of this discussion on the CIP out years:

1. Russ Martin
2. Memorial Field
3. Rolfe
4. Reed
5. Beaver Meadow
6. And all play lots

Chaira asked about the current money left over for White Park. Doug explained there is around \$180,000 from a previous year which is already allocated to the park for parking lot improvements. Chaira asked if this money could be used this winter to create construction drawings for the parking lot and ball field improvements for White Park. Doug said yes it could be with council approval. The group then discussed the merits of White Park starting this year and being the main focus for FY 2007. The group agreed that the parking lot at White Park is an accident waiting to happen and should be addressed ASAP due to safety concerns. Chris also stated this project would also make the baseball field playable. This spring he estimated less than 10 games played on the field due no drainage.

Chiara moved to have the City use the \$180,000 left over for White Park this winter (send out RFP Feb 2005) for the construction design for improving White Park parking lot and baseball field and to recommend City staff and City Council to allocate \$660,000 in FY 2007 for project completion. Andrea seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The committee also agreed to meet again in early January to discuss other parks and park projects. The group agreed to break into sub groups and when appropriate, to review the mini master plans created by Copley Wolf and to report back at next meetings. The group broke into the following sub committees and agreed to look at projects to be included for consideration FY 2008 and beyond.

- White park: Janet and Andrea
- Rolfe/Garrison Park: Liz and John
- Kimball: Ground works report already completed
- Rollins: David and Chris
- Keach Park: Candace and Bruce
- Beaver Meadow: David and Chris
- Garrison: Jan and Chiara
- Martin: David and Chris
- Playlots: Chris

Liz and John asked if they can receive copies of the Copley-Wolk Mini Master Plans. Doug and David will make sure they receive copies.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, January 5th from 4 - 6 pm at the COMF. A light dinner will be served and Chris will be coordinating orders. See revision below

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by

David Gill

**NEXT MEETING will be held on TUESDAY,
January 3, 2006 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at the
COMF. Chris will still coordinate dinner orders.
No meeting on Jan. 5**